What can I keep when I upgrade?

What you can keep depends on the version of Windows you're running on your PC, so you'll only see the options available to you. Here's what you might see:

Windows settings

This keeps your settings like Ease of Access, your desktop background, or Internet favorites and history.

Personal files

This keeps any files that are saved in your User folder, like the Documents and Desktop folders.

Apps

This keeps apps that will work after you upgrade. To get a report of apps that you currently have on your PC that will work, and those that won't, run the Upgrade Assistant, available online at http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/p/?LinkId=261871 before you upgrade (you'll need to close Setup to run the Upgrade Assistant). Some apps might work after you upgrade but you'll need to reinstall them. You'll see a list of these in the report. You'll need your original installation media to reinstall them.

Note: If you're upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 8.1, you won't see "apps" as an option of things to keep, and you'll need to reinstall your apps using the original installation media.

Nothing

This deletes everything, including all of your apps, and replaces your current version of Windows with Windows 8.1. Your personal files will be moved to the windows.old folder. You can find more info online at http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=12416.

If you choose **Nothing**, make sure to do the following before you continue:

- Back up your files to an external hard drive, DVD or CD, USB flash drive, or network folder.
- Find the installation media or confirmation emails, if you bought programs online, for the apps that will work and will need to be reinstalled.

Note: If you use a fingerprint reader or another biometric device to sign in to your PC, make sure you write down your password. You'll have to type your user name and password the first time you sign in to Windows after the upgrade to Windows 8.1.